

Editorial

Welcome to a brand new e-zine!

When Pirate Connection doesn't appear too many times around the year, I sad to myself, why not start something that is 100% carried by e-mail, and free. So, here we are with the Pirate Reflection.

This is the reason why I asked you if you could read PDF-documents, course that is the way this e-zine will be distributed! If you don't want to have any further issues, let me know.

It has been a quite poor free radio Christmas, has it not? The same old fellows, and some with new names. More about this later on.

I wish you a nice reading!

Jonny @ SRS

Band-Reflections

Non-stop music. Is this something you recognise from your logs? How boring is it not to sit there for hours waiting for an identification and suddenly the station sign off without making any noise into the microphone. Is this free radio? Well, the station in question probably believe so, but as a listener and also DX-er or QSL-hunter, it's frustrating! Who have you been listening to? Sometimes, stations are traceable via the signal or the frequency if they have appeared before and giving out an id, but if they have not? As it is free radio, or a kind of, we can't complain to an anonymous station, we can just hope that they are reading our complains.

e-mail and internet. I got a letter from a reader lately and he was complaining about all this talk about homepages and e-mails during the programs. He wrote that the Farmers are more exotic to listen to, and in some way, I believe his right. There have been some kind of tendency that it's more important that the listeners are visiting homepages and sending in reports via e-mail (well that's fine) than the operator are paying some attention to his own program. And tell me, the hand on your hart, is a digital QSL what you really want?

Internet is not anonymous! If someone want to trace you, it's easy. Almost as easy as cross-pointing. So when I see some of those pirates that doesn't want to be seen on homepages, announcing an e-mail address, I will probably laugh myself to sleep.



Laser Hot Hits. This station is still running on two and sometimes even more frequencies. But are there any listeners? I know that those who start listening to the piratebands in 9 times of 10 catch LHH as their first pirate. I don't even know if LHH should be considered to be a pirate! Even if its JRR or someone else relaying, it's most probably from Ireland, and what about the laws there? The same with our friends in Italy; IRRS, SWRS(?), Europe and R. Internacional. Are they pirates or do they hide in the famous grey-zone?

Blue Star. This station seems to have been successful in testing new frequencies, and has been heard all over Europe with good signal. A good alternative to some other stations.

The Farmers. This powerhouse managed to reach North-America several times during Christmas. Anyone surprised?

Radio City. The station of the cars, from somewhere in Europe, continue to struggle on 41 mb. There are not many stations left broadcasting in USB, and I wonder why they are. The music sounds like a strangled Mickey Mouse! Yes, you reach some extra distance by using the upper sideband, but is it worth it? Take **SWRS** for instance, their programs are mostly for the centraleurope audience, why not serve them with proper AM?

What about future issues of Pirate Reflections?

Well, I will try to keep up something that looks like bi-monthly, can't promise anything, as you know.

But if you want to write anything for us, please send us your manuscript. We take almost anything. We have no limitations in pages, as it will never be printed on paper at my location, what You do, that's up to you.

I accept most formats and if you attach images, use 72 dpi, that's enough for the screen-view and does not make to heavy loading into the document.

This first issue is only one page, as I don't have too much material, and I don't want to fall into the trap by writing how you should set up your tx or how you should do your programs so the listeners will stay listening to you, course that are no answers to that more than - do it properly!

See you / Jonny @ SRS

Editorial

Welcome to issue 2 of the PR e-zine!

The temperature is going up and down at the moment, so also the conditions. Even if the 99 should be a year with a solar maximum, I have myself not noticed it so far. The only happening so far this year has been Level 48, more about them later on.

I wish you a nice reading!

Jonny @ SRS

Band-Reflections

Level 48. Has anyone not heard that this gang was active again during the weekend 22-24th of January? While listening it came to my mind, that the style both Project 1 and Level 48 are using is not an efficient method of broadcasting. Europe is a big continent, and some transmitters are local and other are more international. Some DJ's are good as DJ's and other should

pay more attention to the technical matters around. Broadcasting an hour with non-stop music and some jingles in between is not what I call a good show. I don't know how many times Union has fooled me with his non-stop music programs.

Let us go back to the Level and Project 1 escapades. My suggestion is, do like EMR and in some way FRSW. Let one station broadcast programs in various languages. A German, English, Dutch, French, Italian and Swedish mix. Everyone having 60 minutes to give their best and then everything nicely presented on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Trying to change the FR-DX-ers habits are too difficult, so broadcasts on a Friday evening would I call a waste of time. That gives a better control of the signal, the equipment and also the listeners. I will now sit back and wait for the anonymous threats coming in from under-cover members of the L48 and Project 1.



Transatlantic Radio continues with night-time broadcasts on 76 and 51 mb. Due to rather poor conditions on 76 and 51 mb at my QTH, nothing has been heard so far. But the 30th of January a quite good signal was picked up on 3910 kHz. And don't forget to send him some reports, he likes them.

Radio Pandora has made a few tests "out of band". The 41 mb should not be doomed to be an "out of band"-band, but as matter of fact, there are not so much activity as it could be. The 41 mb has a better cycle than the 48 mb when we look up on the conditions in generally. But, fortunately, more and more stations seem to move up and hopefully will there be an increase of the response from the listeners.

Laser Hot Hits. Who is listening? I know that beginners always find them and send a report, but who is actually listening? They are broadcasting almost every day on 41, 48 and 76 mb. Is it some kind of "Hello!"?

Finland was once a very active FR-country, and with Scandinavian Lighthouse and Boston active again, they seem to fight back. The area of 6270+/-10 kHz seems to be most interesting.

**What about future issues of Pirate Reflections?**

Well, I will try to keep up something that looks like bi-monthly, can't promise anything, as you know.

But if you want to write anything for us, please send us your manuscript. We take almost anything. We have no limitations in pages, as it will never be printed on paper at my location, what You do, that's up to you.

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This second issue is only one page, as I don't have too much material. Articles, debates or comments are welcome.



SHORT-WAVE
STATION! See you / Jonny @ SRS
RADIO BRIGITTE



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A word or two from the Headquarters

By Kai Salve Salvesen

Hi and welcome to this third issue of Interference - which in fact coincides with the third issue of Sweden's Pirate Reflections. What we've done is this: We've decided to joined forces!

For the Interference readers I can tell that Pirate Reflections is sent out via e-mail free of charge to anyone who signs up on the mailing list. If you can handle PDF documents - get in touch with Jonny in Sweden!

The magazine will naturally still be available on paper too. The subscriptions rates are the same as before: Readers outside the UK must send an IRC to me in Norway. UK readers can have the magazine from Doug in Leicester. Send him an SAE or a stamp.

We'll try to continue to publish this magazine once every two months. That means that the next issue will be out at the end of May or in early June. Make sure that we have your contribution by the end of week 21 or there about. Complete articles can be sent electronically (i.e. via e-mail) directly to Jonny. All non digital manuscripts should be sent via normal post to me in Oslo.

What sort of magazine is this (or rather: What kind of magazine can this become?)

This is not a DX magazine. If this magazine turns out just like those insignificant log-listing pirate magazines of the past, then I'm out of here. Hmm, well, not that I'm the one to decide the future of PRIM. It's *your* magazine of course!

Who is the magazine intended for? As I see it, there are three kinds of listeners in terms of how they relate to pirate radio. 1) There are those who listen regularly and who are truly interested in the stations. 2) There are the DXers*. I haven't got anything against DXers - or their many fetishes (such as QSLs, SINPOs, log lists etc.) - it's just that, well, it's not exactly what I'm into. 3) There are the normal people who aren't anoraks but who like to tune in to pirates (on MW or FM in the UK for example) or - for that matter - who haven't heard of pirates at all (which is the case for most radio listeners in Norway).

I would like this magazine - or my submissions to it anyway - to be intended for group *one* and *three*. If you want to explain people from *group three* why you like listening to pirates, then surely you wouldn't hand them a copy of SRS News or another log list? Surely you wouldn't tell them about those great QSLs you can get if you write in to these stations? No, of course not - you would tell them about the *programmes* that the pirates broadcast. You'd tell them about the fine *friendship and cooperation* that exists within the free radio community. You'd tell them some *exciting stories* about the PTT or DTI tracking down a pirate broadcaster... *You'd hand them a copy of PRIM!*

Those of you who liked Interference number two will perhaps become a bit disappointed this time as the content is a lot thinner than one would have hoped for... Personally, I have not been able to listen much since last time, and I have thus very little to write about. And I haven't received many contributions from others either. That's OK of course. PRIM is here to stay - we'll be here if you feel like having something published in the future! (We will publish almost anything - just send your submission along!)

It is possible that Jonny has received a lot of material, though. I wouldn't know. PRIM is a very decentralized magazine! (By the way - it can become even more decentralized! If any one of you out there feel like making some paper copies of the magazine and hand out to your friends, it's OK! A publisher in every country would be nice!)

I have a suggestion for a column to be included as from the next issue of PRIM: **an A to Z list of stations with comments on the programming heard on each of these stations - as well as other news items about the various stations. Addresses may also be included (Arthur Ward at Contact reckons that any serious pirate magazine should have addresses in it!).** Send me your submissions and I'll throw together such a column!

Have a nice spring!

73 de Kai Salve

* Please don't get too furious because of my comments about DXers... Many (most!) of the regular pirate listeners are also into QSLs of course (I am too!!). Just the fact that people send reports to pirates show that they are interested and supportive. Most «mainstream» DXers are either hostile towards the pirates or regard them as totally uninteresting and insignificant. In the Norwegian DX Club (DXLC) pirate QSLs don't even count in the club rank. And at a DXLC summer meeting some years ago a few DXers, who had previously been occasional pirate listeners, *burnt* their pirate QSLs during a ritual ceremony... Well, this incident was of course rather witty, but it shows the attitude of many DXers! So my point is this: Any response to a pirate broadcast is valuable of course. But I hope you'll excuse us for not concentrating too much on DX related material in this magazine.

Chairman Doug says: «*Oh no! Kai, my militant mate, what have you done with Interference and its name? PRIM sounds like a soft cheese! I'm going to call my brothers out on strike until Interference reverts back to its original and best title!*»

PRIM?

To deck with nicety!

Well, it's quite simple, almost formal! As the editor of SRSnews for five years, I had decided to do something else more than just editing logs. Everything was planned for the first issue when Interference 1 came along. That was quite a «strong» number, so I decided to go right on and publish Pirate Reflections 1. After issue two, I contacted Kai-Salve and asked if a co-operation would'nt be the best. He agreed and here we are. «PRIM» has nothing to do with soft cheese, that's something I can guarantee.

Take care out there, 73's

Jonny @ SRS

RADIO COMMUNICATION INTERNATIONAL

FREE RADIO ON SHORTWAVE AND MEDIUMWAVE FROM GERMANY

Date	:	15/October/95	To	:	J. Augustsson
Time	:	10.01 UTC			Ytterby
Frequency	:	6207 kc/s			Sweden
Power	:	15 Watt			
Mode	:	AM			QSL # : 041

QSL

RADIO COMMUNICATION INTERNATIONAL • P.O.BOX 220342 • 42373 WUPPERTAL • GERMANY

THE PIRATE RADIO FORUM

Letters from the Interference readers

Doug in Leicester writes: (...) Sean O'Lacey (who is he?) wrote an interesting article about interference problems. His article reminded me of the DTI versus Caroline 558 saga, in the '80s. You may remember, Kai, how the DTI accused Caroline of causing interference to everyone, everything but especially to Ireland's RTE on 567 kHz! Well I wonder if this was the same DTI who, in all their wonderous wisdom decided to allocate 558 kHz to Spectrum Radio? Surely not? The DTI «giving» 558 kHz - that «interfering frequency» to a London-wide (that can be heard clearly all over Britain. Not so bad for a so-called local station eh?) radio station. To make matters worse the UK authorities allocated 558 while Caroline was still using the frequency! So you can imagine all the real interference and noise around that area of the band all brought to listeners in association with the DTI? At the end of the day the DTI won the battle of 558. Amazing though, isn't it, that Caroline on 558 caused splatter / chaos etc., yet Spectrum 558 didn't and still apparently doesn't! And if I can hear / read of another person who believes Caroline RSLs are «the real thing» I'll make them walk the plank. I don't know how, but I will. Somehow!

(...) I spent an hour last saturday, Feb 06 with Good News Radio, on 5910 kHz. Hallelujah! I sent them a reception report saying how lovely, how refreshing and how thought-provoking their broadcasts are. Well I could hardly tell them the truth. I.e.: You were crap. So I lied. Well, as they're a religous station I'm sure they're used to liars and hypocrites!»

Yes, dear readers, Mr. Doug does virtually anything for a QSL. He goes on saying:

«Last Saturday morning, as I was up early I tuned around 49 metres and heard Radio Torenvalk on 6270 kHz, between 0812-0845 closedown. Some lovely singing from Mr. T. He's another Dutch pirate who should seriously consider entering this year's Eurovision song contest for Holland. (Blue Star, however, is odds on to be chosen for Holland!)

(...) Last night I took the most beautiful thing to bed with me. She was by my side all night long. Unfortunately, she had vanished by the time I woke up at 8.00 AM. But she'll be back later on. Ahh... here she is now. Beautiful. She's purring in my ear as I write. Her sexy tones are so soothing. Every night I turn her on! Beccy Buzzer and me go together like radio ships in the north sea. I'm not the jealous type so I don't mind if you, Kai, or anyone else turns her on late at night. (But remember the £10.00 fee!)»

Doug also sent me some newspaper cuttings - among other things some beautiful pictures of Prince Charles and his new «bird» (I can't remember her name*) (I suppose it was her!) They're both on my wall now, in a costly frame.

* Doug tells me in a subsequent letter that the name is Camilla.



Another letter from Doug: «(...) Radio Korak has just fired up his TX (2230 UTC). That makes it 3 Saturday nights in a trot for Willem, on 3927. (...) I've read IRRS have complained about Merlin Network using 3985 kHz. Merlin are now going to shift their arses to 49 m. I have a better solution for Merlin. Switch off altogether. Bring back Brother Stair to 75 m!! (...) Have you heard Ijsselpiraat on 3938 kHz? I heard him last night for the 3rd time in 5 weeks. Good signal. He's a Farmer's friend! Crazy! (...)» Doug goes on moaning about the National Budget and the like - something which I shall not bother the readers with!

Steve Midnight says: «I know little about situationism, though probably more than most people! I understand it's a philosophy concerned with «creating situations that set people free». I guess free radio is a good example.» (Comment to my question on page one. I still haven't got around to doing any research by the way.)

This is what they say about Interference:

It is the first free radio magazine I enjoy reading.

Sandra, Radio Korak

- Really the most interesting fanzine I've read for years, maybe ever! Not only for the interesting articles contained but also for the obvious humour content and the anagrams used by the contributers. Long may it continue!

Bill Lewis, England

(...) it has the same style and details of information as pirate newsletters of the «good old days» of home-brew radio in the 1970s. I thought that this style had disappeared, so it was a nice surprise to find that it still exists somewhere.

John Campbell, Okehampton

Voor Jan en Allemann

News from the mediumwave - compiled by Q. R. Emerson

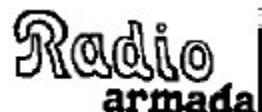
*Most of the content in this column comes from other people. I haven't been able to listen much lately myself. Thanks to Yves, Doug, Mister ***, Werner, Anne, Martin and Derek for the information. I have also taken some information from Bandscan # 49 and 50.*

Studio 4

It is with great sadness I have to report to you the death of this popular MW pirate. Henkjan died in his sleep after broadcasting a programme on Friday the 12th of March, age 35. He was one of the most active pirates and will be missed.

Raids

Radio Simson and Zender Weduwe have been raided (if I understand my source correctly).



Correction

De Casanovas were Verona and Mario. I seem to have mixed things up a bit last time.

Greek stations

Yves heard an unidentified Greek station on 1638 kHz calling CQ for Radio Kontakt (Dutch station) on the 7th of March. Amazing! As far as I know, the Dutch and the Greek stations have never had any contacts with each other - they mostly seem to ignore each other. Martin Schöch in Germany says that Greek DXer Z. Liangas is willing to help foreign listeners with identifying and contacting Greek pirates. Address: Z. Liangas, 40 Ethaminis Str., 54621 Thessaloniki, GREECE. E-mail: zliangas@compulink.gr.

Live Wire Radio

Bill Lewis has sent me a letter in which he tells me (among other things) about his antenna system: «*For mediumwave I use a length of wire slightly longer than a 1/4 wave. Why? Because the impedance of a 1/4 wave end fed wire at a low height above ground is very low, maybe only 10-20 W maximum. If you lengthen the antenna to about 3/8 wavelength the impedance increases + so does the all important radiation resistance of the antenna. My earth system used on MW consists of around 60-70 buried radial wires between the length of 70-140 feet and also several counterpoise wires in the hedge! Also I have several strips of chicken wire fencing buried under our lawn! (6 strips each 10 mtrs x 1 metre). The antenna is carefully matched to the TX via a homemade «L match» ATU to maximise efficiency.*

New Dutch Rules

One of our readers on the continent tells us about a new Dutch law that has been in use since the 15th of December 1998. The law is very interesting for the pirates since it allows people *without* a license to possess a radio transmit-

ter. Our reader writes (slightly edited by me): *In the past it was not possible to have a transmitter without a license, and the Dutch PTT liked it that way, because when you used a transmitter on a pirate frequency and the PTT had located you, they had all the time they needed to come and visit you. It happened that they rang on your front door a few weeks after the last transmission and took away your beloved transmitter, because you had no right to have a transmitter in your house without a license. So in the past you always had to hide the transmitter, but from December the 15th it is different. From that day it is possible in The Netherlands to have all kinds of transmitters without a license. No problem to have your transmitter just next to the window - the only thing is ... you may NOT USE IT. So it's possible to have big transmitters in your house, and when the PTT discover the transmitters, they do nothing. I have from that day a big collection of transmitters, just as a hobby, and I have them only for collection. When the PTT now visit you after a broadcast, it's a big problem for them, you can let them see your transmitter, but they can't take it away because you may have it and you didn't use that thing for broadcasting...*

This law is better for the pirate stations. The chance for a raid is smaller, but I don't think there will be more pirates in Holland because of this. Most of the Dutch pirates were not afraid of the PTT in the first place, and they chose that lifestyle.

Mysterious Record

The record I wondered about last time is called «Honerd man en een bevel». Thanks to Anne and Martin for the information! Martin says that the record has been recorded in German as well, by among others Freddy Quinn. Anne says: «Der Text gefällt Dir sicher nicht; sehr militäristisch!» Yes, I understood that the text had something to do with the military. But it's a great record anyway.

Radio Antares

Oscar, the guy at Radio Antares (1650/1611 kHz), has replied to my recent letter/reception report: *The music you heard on the station was in fact all Brazilian (Portuguese language). I am a fan of this type of music, and I think you'll agree, it is something which you hardly ever hear on legal mainstream radio. As I think you know, Antares is a station on which speech takes priority over music, which is rare even in the world of free radio, but I believe it's a really positive route for a free station to take in the present era. We talk about what's going on in the world, and about what's going on in the life of the listener, and being a free radio station we often talk about what's going on in the world of free radio, and radio broadcasting and media in general.*

Your report was one of the most distant I have received, but you may be interested to know that I also got one from Strömstad in Sweden, near the Norwegian border. Response has been encouraging both locally and long-distance, and there is still room for technical improvements here at my end. Incidentally I do sometimes put Antares out on 1611 kHz. This is better for the local listeners whose radios may not stretch up to 1650 kHz. The only coast station which I can hear on 1650 is a French language weather bulletin which comes on once an hour, and normally only lasts for 5 or 6 minutes. (...) Apart from this, 1650 is clearer than 1611, and better for DX working. The French are slowly phasing-out their MW marine services, but for now at least their 1650 remains in use.

I suppose there is quite a bit of MW activity here in the London area. There is even more on FM, but that does not interest me so much these days, and it seems that the authorities consider FM higher priority for raids than AM. As for Norway, perhaps someone should seriously consider putting a MW pirate on. Listeners will only tune to a band if there are any services worth listening to. Do you know what the response from the authorities would be? I reckon any free station would keep well away from 1314 kHz. That must be one of the most powerful rigs anywhere in Europe.» Indeed. But during the past few days it's been more of a QRP «bug» sort of TX in comparison. They appear to have had some severe problems with the power supply at the TX site on the west coast (on a small island called Kvitsoy).

About the possibility of MW piracy in Norway: Very few people know what MW is. I suppose some listeners sometimes accidentally touch the «AM» button on their radios, but I don't think they understand what it is... But you never know - with a bit of publicity it could be possible to make people listen to a MW pirate. But who should operate it? I do not intend to... (There aren't any FM pirates either in this country, so I don't think MW piracy in Norway is any likely at all.) About the reactions from the authorities: Who knows? (I may try to do some research on this - just out of curiosity.)

Recent activity

Stations heard on MW in January, February and March (logs by Yves and Derek - all stations Dutch unless otherwise stated):

Antares 1650 (heard by myself in Grimstad with a weak signal. Antares is a local broadcaster in London.), **Anton** 1636/1637/1638/1641/1643/1646/1648/1658.6, **Antonio** 1641, **Argus** 1611 (this London pirate was noted by Derek in Preston on the 24th of January with an tiny 5 % signal), **Armada** 1646, **Atlanta** 1640.8, **Atlantis** 1645.2, **Atletico** various, **Bad Company** 1645, **Barones** 1636/1645, **Radio BB** 1639.5, **Berkenrode/Calimero** 1645,

Black Power 1636, **Blauwe Ster** 1638 (so he still tries out MW every now and again, then?), **Blonde Piraat** 1647/1638, **Caballero** 1636, **Caroline** 1633/1637/1640/1651/1636, **De Casanovas** 1636, **Concordia** 1636, **Curacau** 1637v, **Delmare** 1647 (mobile with 10 watts on the 8th of January - heard in Preston with a 20 % signal), **Edelweiss** 1570, **Electron** 1635/1645/1646/1650, **Euromast** 1638, **Firma Casanovas** 1636, **Firma Jan Duins** 1636, **Foxfire** 1646, **Graaf van Luxemburg** 1636, **Graaf van Monte Cristo** 1636, **Grote Verziederder** 1636/1637/1638, **Havanna** 1636/1646.7, **Henk en Ronnie** (Tijdy and a mate, I suppose...) 1636, **Hertog Jan** 1645, **Hollandia** 1645, **Huufschmied** 1650, **Ijsselpiraat** 1636, **Internos** 1645, **Jan de Prefekt** 1645 (Belgian station, according to Yves), **Jan Publiek** 1638, **Johan** 1645, **De Kluizenaars** 1636, **Kontakt** 1638/1645, **Kristal** 1638/1646, **Live Wire Radio** 1636/1650 (British station, heard on the 11th of January), **Luxemburg** 1638, **Zender Manuela** 1636, **Man uit Oosten** (Johan) 1645, **Mario** 1636, **Mexicano en medewerkers** 1645, **Mi Amigo** 1635/1639, **Monte Carlo** various, **Morgenster** 1637v, **Nooitgedacht** 1636/1637, **Noordzee** 1636/1645, **Nordmende** 1636, **Oceanstormer** 1636, **Orion** 1638, **Pandora** 1646, **Pepper** 1508, **Perlee** 1508, **Recharge** 1620 (British pirate heard in Preston on the 31st of January with 10 %), **Safari** 1635, **Sallandse Boer** 1640, **Schaduwjager** 1636, **Simson** 1637/1646, **Soto** 1571, **Spanningzoeker** 1636/1645, **Sterenboog** 1650, **Stroper** (means «poacher») 1636, **Studio 4** 1645/1660, **Talisman** 1635/1643/1644, **Testpiraat** 1636/37, **Testzender** 1637, **Texta Cowboy** 1608/1610, **Tijdbreker** 1636, **Torpedojager** 1637/1645.2, **Toulouse** 1638/1649, **Tubantia** 1634, **UCB** (Ireland) 549, **Utopia** 1636/1648, **Velvet** 3215 (2nd harmonic of Greek station, heard in Greece), **Verona** 1636, **Vossenjager** 1641.8, **Weduwe** 1643.8/1646, **Zender 819** 1569/1570, **Zender DB** 1636, **Zonneschijn** 1642/1644, **Zonnester** 1638, **Zwarte Johnny** 1637/1650, **Zwarte Non** 1636, **Zwarte Spin** 1636/1638.

The Linguistical Corner

A Look at the Ever so Exciting Pirate Language



The linguistical corner turned out to be a great hit among the readers, so this will therefore be a regular feature in PRIM.

I have received no entries for the competition we had last time, so that means that I can keep the Kenwood R-5000 that was to be given away to the winner.

In case you don't remember, the question was this: What does it mean when a Dutch pirate says «je zit in de file»? Anne has now sent me the answer. The story is this: A pirate once said to another pirate (in a QSO on 182 metres I suppose) that this other pirate had a bit of «fading» on his signal. The other pirate did not understand this strange expression - and he thought it was the English word «feeling». Now, this latter pirate went on speaking to a third pirate who in turn didn't understand what this word «feeling» was supposed to mean - and he thought that it might be the Dutch word «file», which means « traffic file» or «traffic jam»!! (- if I understand my dictionaries correctly that is!) So «je zit in de file» (English: «You sit in the traffic jam») means simply: «QSB»!

The scale is from «licht» to «dik» in de file.

The expression has in fact developed even further: Nooitgedach has spoken about «filet» (meaning «fillet» I guess). Amazing story!

Anne also comments on my comment in Interference # 2 about the use of Swedish spelling on Radio Barones. She says that Johan has picked up his Swedish from a jingle that Jonny Augustsson once recorded for them. She says that they particularly like the Swedish way of pronouncing the letter «A». To her and Johan's ears, Jonny's pronunciation of «AA Raalte» sounds like «aw aw Rawlte». (Anne writes: «Noch besser hört es sich bei der Level 48 Adresse an: AA Raalte klingt für uns wie oh oh Rohlte.»)

I must point out for those who don't know, that Norwegian isn't a bit like Swedish. Norwegians would never say aw aw Rawlte. The Norwegian pronunciation is a lot more cultivated and intelligent than that of the average Ytterby citizen.

Anne asks how Norwegians spell city names etc. when they're on the radio. Well, I think all Norwegian radio operators use the international «NATO» alphabet (often called the «phonetic alphabet» in radio circles - something which must surely be quite wrong??) - i.e. alpha, bravo, charlie etc. The Swedish nuts are the odd ones out here as they use totally incomprehensible words such as *Niklas*, *Erik*, *David* etc. (Swedish names). Civilized people would say *November*, *Echo*, *Delta*...

Well, regular Norwegian citizens who don't know the NATO alphabet would use common Norwegian forenames if they needed to spell something in such a way that it couldn't be misunderstood (on the phone, on the local radio etc.). They'd say «T for Torgeir, O for Olga, L for Leif, H for Harald» and so on. But this is never heard on the SW bands I think.

Competition

The competition this time is this: Do you know what «buurtamateur» and «afstandamateur» means? These are words that are often heard in Dutch CQ calls. Send us your suggestions before next deadline!

Q. R. Emerson

Writing useful reports

or How to piss off an operator

In issue 2, 1999, of Argusnews, the editor had tried to explain how you should send a report to a station. The first example was a common form-report and the other one was a common letter.

Exactly, a common letter to a station. Had nothing to do with a reception-report.

So, why bother? A question good as any! This with reception-reports has always been something that operators and editors could write about, so why should not I?

Writing a reception-report, just the name tells us what it is all about does it not? By writing to a station and telling the operator that you loved the song by the Sub-Beavers and that the station should play all their records for your girlfriend, that is not a reception-report. That is a friendly letter (the operator might see it different). A reception-report should include some details, paying no attention to how boring they are, time for the details, preferably given in UTC and some technical stuff for the signal so the operator knows how much he covers, and do not forget to comments on the modulation.

I have friends who are operators on SW who ask why there are no details with the reports anymore. Just a begging letter for a QSL, could have been any station they had listen to.

So the best thing as I see it, use the form to cover up all the important facts that a station could need, and write a friendly letter too and perhaps explain in no technical term how you read the signal and reception. This will cover up for a non-technical operator who has just managed to attach the right wires from his 10 Dollars FM-Transmitter to the battery, and the more technical-ditto on a SW-station will get something more than just the form-letter.

Putting those two letters together on one piece of paper is of course better. So the word is: details! 3-5 of them is good enough, and try to avoid such as "Man singing". Is the description "person with two legs" good enough to identify you? Did not think so.

And when everything is in the envelope, two more things to remember:

1. Return postage. That is a friendly manner from you. If the operator does not want anything, he will probably return it to you.
2. Do not write the word "Radio" on the envelope. The letter "R" is good enough.

That is it. Good luck next time writing a report.

Jonny @ SRS

I Like **ECR**
EAST COAST RADIO

Final words

last page anyway

I feel as a station operator for many years, I must write to SRS News and state my views on the recent problems with Dutch jamming.... and ask the question WHY?

WMR has suffered jamming in the past from Dutch stations who just sign on top of any frequency anytime it seems.

We used to share with RFL around 6285, but the Dutch Farmers started drifting around that area, blindly jamming any station already on the channel.

A few weeks ago we had trouble when the Level 48 transmission was almost jammed by a Dutch station on 3905, who was not scheduled to be on air on the network, decided to come on about 2 hours earlier!! The frequency was jamming the only crystal I had, 3910, therefore as far as I am aware, no reports were received, because of the heavy splatter. This leaves me in serious doubt about the direction of the Level 48 co operation.

I heard Laser having to fight off a dutch signal on 3927 last week or the week before, despite laser using this channel for some time now.

EMR also came close to WMRs 7446 a few weeks ago, when the Dutch relay put it on 7450!! All I can ask again is WHY? WMR has been using the old 7446 frequency again for many months, and is widely heard.

Once last year of the year before I received a letter of attack from a German DXer for jamming Radio Brigitte on 6255 on a Sunday morning. This was despite the fact the WMR transmitter had in fact been on the air through the night!!!!!!

I can recall a time, and I have a tape, when Radio Orang Utang from Holland was on 227m, and Radio Barones signed on top of him, to give him a report of a good signal, even though Orang Utang was still on air!! I guess the report was not heard!!!

This was about 1980.

Are there any comments???

Jack Russel

& Finally

Well, this was the first issue of **PRIM**, the co-operation between Pirate Reflections and Interference Magazine. Did you like it? Was it better than before? Worse? We are waiting for your answers to those tricky questions.

Kai-Salve is the main-editor and the one in charge of this operation. He's the one to blaim if you didn't like this issue, anyhow, if you found this issue to be a good one, e-mail prim@srs.pp.se at once and let me know. Don't bother Kai-Salve with that! <hi hi> Just kidding, we are both curious about your reaction.

Jonny is in charge of the electronical part of **PRIM**, so if you have any material you want to have published in **PRIM**, you could send it to him on the e-mail address mentioned above. Handwritten or typed manuscripts are to be sent directly to Norway. You'll find the address on page 1.

We will now start the heavy task to make **PRIM** even better, and if you want to become an editor, please, write us today and tell us what you would like to write about.

Next dedline around week 21, hope to hear from you.

Kai-Salve

Doug

Jonny

Pirate Reflections

Issue 4 1999

e-mail: pr@srs.pp.se

Editorial

Welcome to issue 4 of the PR e-zine!
You can not please them all. The co-operation between Interference Magazine and Pirate Reflection became nothing. But we will continue working together, but with two independent magazines and some shared material.
We have some new stuff around here so I wish you a nice reading!

Jonny @ SRS

A few words from the Interference editor

Dear readers of Pirate Reflections
Interference and Pirate Reflections are once again two separate magazines. We are still exchanging material, though. I will pass on any material that I get to Pirate Reflections IF THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE IN QUESTION ASKS ME TO DO SO. That is: If you send material to Interference and want it to be spread to many more readers via e-mail, you must alert me. If not, your submission will only appear in Interference - i.e. on paper, sent out via ordinary mail. The regular MW column as well as the listeners' letters column in Interference will not be passed on to Pirate Reflections. This time around I have passed on a couple of submissions to the QSL debate (without any explicit permission from the authors, but I trust it is OK). Another thing I should mention: The next issue of Interference will also be the last. If anyone wants to continue - please do! I'm more than willing to give you a hand.

5th of May 1999, Q. R. Emerson

Letters

Hi Jonny and Kai,

This week, I received PRIM 3 and I have to say that it's really good, it's similar than IM + PR, interesting, quite good !!! Congratulations, Well done !!!

Bastian

Well, thanks a lot Bastian, but other forces did not like the name or the content. I am glad you did.

Argusnews comment on «PRIM»

Written by the Radio Argus manager

I have read PRIM and I am sorry to say that I don't like it much. (...) You managed to turn out two excellent mags that put mine to shame (...). You don't need SRS to swallow you up, SRS are a bunch of incompetent morons who haven't got a clue about anything except loglists. This is clearly evident from the article Jonny wrote in with, «How to piss off an operator» (...). Look, if a signal is heard on an expensive receiver, with long wire, frame loop, etc, and that is designed to hear a gnat fart on the other side of the world, that is no big deal. If, on the other hand, it can be heard on a cheap, domestic radio, then the operator is going to be happier, because it is those sorts of radios that the general public listen to. When we were putting out a 24 hour service on 783 kHz, a year or so ago, [...] was picking us up on his specially set up expensive receiver at home. He then got in his car, to go to work, and could still hear us on his car radio, two counties away. That meant more to us. I have heard RFL on 5805, on an old 1970s Grundig Yachtboy, in the harbour at Padstow, Cornwall, and all over Cornwall, night and day. When I told them this, they were happier than by all the reports from DXers with the latest comms receivers.

As an operator I feel that some DXers are OK and can be helpful (when I'm tuning up an aerial, for example), but most of them cannot exist without their sad bits of card and paper that verify that they heard this or that station.

Other DXers can really be a pain. They



Short presence magazine!

publish stations' addresses WITHOUT THE STATION'S CONSENT. This is a dangerous and foolish thing to do, and I would urge you not to do as Arthus Ward says and publish them. Let me give you an example why not. Say, for example, Station A has a mailing address that is someone's relatives. It happens a lot in free radio. For a few weeks a year, those relatives are away, and nosey-parker next door has promised to keep an eye on the house, mail etc. The station gives out On Air an alternative address, but the DXer is out for a record, and only listens long enough to hear the station ID, then reaches for his DX magazine with addresses, while tuning for another station. Nosey Parker sees a letter addressed to Radio A (or even R.A., Jonny!) and thinks that it has been wrongly addressed, and opens it. Or worse still, opens it, having seen other mail to this mysterious Radio A, promptly gossips to all and sundry that a pirate radio is using such and such an address. The problem for the station is that on their return, the relatives may refuse to handle more mail for the station, and a new address has to be found.

Argus News NEVER gives out station addresses, EVEN IF THE STATIONS MENTIONED DON'T MIND! It is a stupid thing to do. On a minor note, it can also lead to false DXing, although this is as far as we are concerned little bother, as we simply never send QSLs out, and we would urge other operators not to.

A STATION THAT SENDS OUT QSLs IS ADMITTING TO BROADCASTING WITHOUT A LICENCE, AND IS EVEN CONFIRMING TIMES AND FREQUENCY! HOW DOES THAT STATION KNOW THAT MR. X, WHO HAS WRITTEN IN, IS REALLY A DXer, AND NOT SOMEONE FROM THE DTI OR PTT TRYING TO GET EVIDENCE... IT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST!

In closing, Kai, I would urge you to go back to the original format. It was far superior. I note that PRIM will be also on the Internet (...). When you have a mailing list, and know where the mags are going, then you are safe, but I can only quote Silveri Gómez, one of our Spanish listeners, when responding in a recent Argus News questionnaire to the question asking if we should put parts of Argus News on the Internet... He said NO, «too many fool people on the Internet».

[This article will appear as listener's letter in Interference # 4. I have not asked for any permission to pass these comments on to Pirate Reflection, but I trust the Argus manager would like the PR readers to read them!]

Pirate weekly A-Z

April - May

Mondays

Really no special activity around here this day, those appearing are mainly from the Easter season. If you want to hear anything, try one of all the frequencies for Laser Hot Hits.

It is possible to find Blue Star here as well.

Tuesdays

Well, only SWRS (7480) has been testing here lately, and only a few tests on 48 mb.

Tuesdays are boring, so cheer them up with some activity. Laser Hot Hits is maybe enough.

Wednesdays

The 76 mb has some activity here, Borderhunter can be found and also Blue Star.

Others have been heard, but probably only testing. Keep an ear upon 76 mb.

Thursdays

Now things start to move. The crew behind Galaxy can be heard on 76 mb and also sporadic Dutch stations. It is still mostly on 76 mb where things happens.

Fridays

Time to party? Fa.Jan Duin on 3939 kHz has been very active. That's good. Some tests from PRSQ has also taken place. The name PRSQ stands for **Pirat Radio Station with Quality**. PRSQ has only been heard on 48 mb. Address via Zwolle. Offshore 98 was also heard one Friday with a marathon broadcast. More of this kind. That shows the right spirit. Laser also running on all frequencies. Also possible to tune in some US-stations. Radio Free London starts off for their weekly marathon aswell.

Saturdays

Comming more and more.

Alfa Lima International - Has been active on Saturdays too. Nice mix of calls and music.

IRRS- has normally a few relays. Not a pirate station, but for listeners. Atelier Radio, Breakdown, R

Cassablanca, Amazonia, Fantasy, R. Joystick and Southern Music R., Wonderful among the stations being heard.

SWRS has also relays and among the stations there, Blandengue, Crazy Wave R., FRSH, Anyone not heard Farmers? Good. Flux Radio has been active on 6300 and 6260 kHz. Not heard here at the SRS-HQ, but further north without problems. Groove FM is also a new appearance on the band. Normally active on 6935 kHz. An UK FM-station. Korak is also heard almost every Saturday with mixed music and a hot line. Nice.

There are many stations active on Saturdays, so it could be interesting to go hunting / listening also on this odd pirate day. Keep an eye on 41 mb and also 11.4 MHz.

Sundays

Not much to add, here comes the rest, or? Alfa Lima and the Farmers we all know, so what else have been active?

BBMS / Ozone has been very active on the low 6200 kHz. Could be a bit noisy, but they have a good mix of music. On 6940.8, ABC Dublin might have appeared. This station does not appear to regular in the SRSnews. So listen out. Benelux on 7480 kHz is also a good choice.

Perhaps a bit too talky for some tastes, but the music under the talk are good. The other "powerhouse", Radio Blue Star are normally found above 6305 kHz. A good choice!

Borderhunter has been testing on all pirate bands, so search and listen. CLCG was active again with DX-information. Not as active as for 5 years ago. Pandora's move to 7400 kHz. Bad or good? Well, I think he has lost a lot of listeners by this, but the 41 mb is a bit easier to handle and has more stable signal.

On 11390, Marconi R. International has been active. An odd frequency that is easy to forget. Scandinavian Lighthouse on 6274 is something to hunt. This Finnish station has not the most powerful rig, but should be heard with the right receiver and antenna. The Scandinavian Beer Drinkers was probably the same station after a "looong" night. Q103, next "out-of-band" station. Frequencies like 6975U and 10330U are probably not scanned by everyone. Programme your radio to include this fre-

quency.

Bandonica has been the early bird around mid 48 mb. Mostly non-stop music with low modulated id's. Radio City on the 41 mb has also been very active. Alternating between SSB and AM signals. Recognised by the music. Also note that Radio Nordsee has been raided, the new station calling themselves for Nothsea has another address.

Radio Bobby was heard, and this station is very rare. Probably relayed. Acappela Radio was something new. How many of you are actually tuning 12256 kHz? Do that, Wrekin Radio always have an interesting mix of music. It's more fascinating that UK Radio International keeps going on 6266 kHz, but he's maybe only interested in the British audience?

Station Sierra Sierra (or Station SS) has also been very active, and huge amounts of reports have been forwarded. Nice to have new stations on the band from UK. Not to forget from the UK-Island is Xenon Transmitting Co. Normally around 6211 kHz and Weekend Music Radio on 7446 kHz. Lots of talk, but hey! Well, that's most of the activity around here during this period. See you next month.

The Sad State of SW Pirate Radio

By John Silver

We seem to have a QSL debate going. How many haven't we had of these... Well - as Jonny says - since everyone else is talking about this, then why shouldn't I mention it as well?

First of all: This article is not an attack on those who take the QSL hobby seriously. The QSL card has long traditions - it has in fact existed almost since the very first days of radio communications. It's a valuable tradition and should be kept up with! But short wave radio is more than QSLs. And even *pirate radio* is more than QSLs! Yes, it's true!

Most pirate listeners always send off a so-called «proper» reception report (i.e. a sheet with information such as date, time, frequency, reception quality - often measured in SINPO - and a few programme details) *in addition* to a personal letter. Now why do they do this? I find it hard to believe that they're all genuinely interested in QSLs. Why do they spend so much time on such a useless (in many stations' eyes) piece of paper? I think they do it because they feel they have to. They're expected to do it. In fact I most often put together such a

«formal» report myself when I write to a station. Otherwise the operator might wonder why on earth I write in! We're all captured in a web of irrational expectations!

Most of those who write in to pirates are interested in pirate radio. How come they don't comment more on the programmes they hear? Because they aren't expected to do so. - And because (to be honest) most pirates don't broadcast stuff that deserves any comments whatsoever! A few records and a station identification - how can you possibly expect the listeners to make comments?

There are big differences between the pirate stations in different parts of Europe. Only Britain, Ireland and the Netherlands have (as far as I can judge) genuine pirate traditions. Pirate stations elsewhere in Europe are almost always operated by DXers. And I suppose these stations expect to receive «proper» reception reports (as Jonny says in his article in PRIM # 4). Many stations are on air solely to receive as many reception reports as possible, and they seem to enjoy nothing more than making "special event QSLs" etc. It's all a part of the QSL "game".

I have decided to cease broadcasting because of all this. There are very few real listeners out there - or at least they don't bother to tell that they're interested! And once you set up a pirate station you're expected to take part in this insane QSL business. We're all captured by it! I don't think it's possible to change things. The only reason why I'm still into pirate radio is that some of the British stations - in spite of poor response from the listeners - still bother to make real programmes (some of which are more interesting than anything that you'd ever hear on legal radio!). The Dutch MW pirates are also quite interesting to listen to. Dutch pirate radio is just so weird and unheard of that I just *have* to like it! (I especially like those who broadcast to their neighbourhoods on MW. It's quite fascinating to hear Jaap with family send all their best greetings to aunt Gerda and uncle Jan!)

I do however consider setting up a local station (on FM) and broadcast to ordinary people. There aren't any local pirates in this area (most people haven't even heard of such stations!). It would be interesting to see how people reacted if a pirate turned up. I have this vision of setting the VFO very close to one of the local Christian fundamentalist stations and calling myself "Heathen National Radio"!

Pirate radio can be fun - and even valuable - if we just liberate ourselves from this insane QSL howling! If you want a particular pirate broadcaster

to continue broadcasting - send them a letter and tell them how much you enjoy listening to their programmes. OK, send them a report as well if you're into QSLs - but if you aren't: Don't bother! The stations that put some efforts into the programmes aren't so interested in a «formal» reception report (although most of them will be willing to send out a QSL card to listeners as an act of courtesy).

[Article from Interference # 4]

How to Piss off a QSL Manager

By Derek Taylor

Of all the reports D.P.R.S. receives in a year, about 6% of them can only be classified as useful. The rest are, as you say, BEGGING LETTERS, with minimum or NO detail. A percentage are sent to the wrong station, or to a name they THINK they've heard.

You can tell them: NOT TO PUT NAME ON ENVELOPE, PLEASE GIVE PROGRAMME DETAILS OR SEND TAPE, INCLUDE 2 IRC OR 2 US\$ till you're blue in the face! But they take no notice!!

The same names appear time and time again. D.P.R.S. HAD a policy of returning abortive reports. But THEY DON'T LIKE IT! Some even wrote back to criticise me. For THEIR ERRORS!!! saying «D.P.R.S. is inefficiency» etc... (Well known DXer from Sweden.)

All abortive or useless reports NOW GO INTO THE TRASH CAN!! One German DXer wrote: «I expect a reply in the next week!» When you have had to wait 11 YEARS for a QSL like I have, statements like this make your blood boil! I've been writing reports for 42 years! and have 1,000s of MW QSLs.

I agree with Jonny, a form and a letter is OK. But the letter should take priority and should be included EVERY TIME. Sincere reporters (as opposed to QSL hunters) enclose photos, small gifts, and personal details. «The more you give, the more you get» as the saying goes. If you don't make the station feel it needs to reply to you, you'll probably GET NOTHING!

D.P.R.S. has received hundreds of reports over the 9 past years. Italians take the biscuit for the worst or minimal reports (often just a card) followed by Germans and Scandinavians. I once received a report? on a piece of paper 11x5 cm! with NO STATION NAME, JUST A QUESTION MARK.

90% of my QSLs worldwide have been obtained through taped reports. That is irrefutable evidence of reception. Most D.P.R.S. reporters don't seem to know what a tape recorder is, or NEVER have one connected! (Accidentally or on purpose perhaps?) I have 2 recorders connected all the time, plus a tape loop.

D.P.R.S. has tried to change the attitude or reporting approach of these people, but it's like pissing against the wind! You'll never change them. There are a lot of good reporters out there, but I'm afraid they are outnumbered by these automatons with their photo copy, computer generated, duplicate, identical reports.

[Article from Interference # 4]

Final words

It seems to me that Radio Argus is living peacefully in their world of FM and does not know that there are activity on other bands. If the authorities want to pick up a station, they have the address within a few minutes. A QSL or a log on Internet is not worth anything. There are also a lot of "mailboxes" across Europe, i.e. Wuppertal, SRS, DPRS to mention a few, try one of them and you will never put your near and dear ones in any danger. By this I think we leave the Argus team there in the early 70's and go back to present time and the shortwave scene.

I hope that Kai Salve will continue his work with Interference Magazine. I think the hobby needs that. If you decide to close (awful thought), you are always welcome to join PR.

Pirate Connection should soon be out! YES! Stefan has told me that the magazine should be printed by now. Last time I saw this magazine was in January 1998 or so. Welcome back!

And finally, Pirate Reflections are not spread freely on the Internet. Internet is used to send PR via e-mail to the subscribers. Roger and out.

Contributions

What about future issues of Pirate Reflections?

Well, I will try to keep up something that looks like bi-monthly, can't promise anything, as you know.

But if you want to write anything for us, please send us your manuscript. We take almost anything. We have no limitations in pages, as it will never be printed on paper at my location, what You do, that's upto you.

I accept most formats and if you attach images, use 72 dpi, that's enough for the screen-view and does not make to heavy loading into the document.

This second issue is only one page, as I don't have too much material. Articles, debates or comments are welcome.

See you / Jonny @ SRS



Pirate Reflections

Issue 5 1999
e-mail: pr@srs.pp.se

Editorial

Welcome to issue 5 of the PR e-zine!
Been a while since last issue, but I've been quite busy with thousands of things.
Not much this time, the Off-Shore 98 interview and also the Pirate Weekly, so I wish you a nice reading!

Jonny @ SRS

Letters

Hi there at PRIM / Pirate Reflections,

I read your electronic e-zine and receive copies of the Argusnews, and I must say that some people must have a screw or two loose! Derek Take me from Deep Penetration Rectal Service and Bert Skirt from Radio Anus must be the two most scared persons of homosexuality I have ever seen! What does a name mean? It is the content, and the idea with PRIM was good, and I'm sorry to see that it was closed down so quick. Sometimes are those with the highest voices not always right! Keep up the good work and try to forget these anti-DX-people.

Greg.

Editor: Tnx Greg for your letter, as I see it, everything is dropped from our site. I wanted to have a debate on the subject QSL / reporting, as the quality has a tendency to go down on both sides. Unfortunately was Bert on Argusnews not the best one to have debate with.



Pirate weekly A-Z May - July

Mondays

Been quite active during this period. Mostly thanks to Whit-Monday, but LHH and RFL can sometimes be heard. RFL has also been testing on 15068.8 kHz.

Tuesdays

Not much going on those days, LHH and sometimes Galaxy.

Wednesdays

Mostly the same as Tuesdays, but sporadic tests have been noticed on different bands.

Thursdays

Very active day! Radio Galaxy has been heard several times from 20.00 UTC. Also huge activity from Holland.

Fridays

Mostly relays via SWRS, but also Dutch activity on the 76 mb. Most active on this day must be R.Jan Duin on 3938 kHz.

Saturdays

Very active again. A few shots from US have appeared. Groove FM continues upon 6535 kHz. On 3945 Subterranean keeps playing understandable music and talk! Southern Music R. was back on 3985 kHz. A rare station.

Another station that walks in the step of Subterranean, must be Magic Spell. Coming on late, makes this station easy to miss.

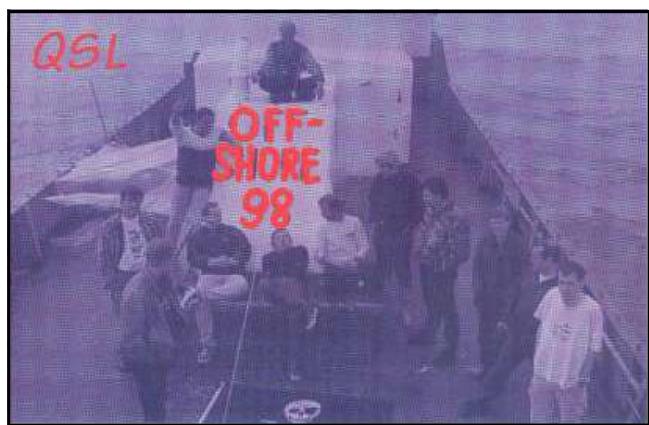
Radio Atlantis is back with sporadic broadcasts on 3935 kHz. Address via SRS.

Benelux has also been very active and also with relays. Radio Focus has also been on air again.

Sundays

The big day. No actual news, but R.Bristol on 11400 must have been a good catch. Q103 keeps struggling with strange frequencies. R.Continental has been heard a couple of times as well as PRSQ. Radio Orion "The Big O" was heard in Scandinavia only - strange! Radio Geronimo has been testing via an mobile outlet on 48 mb! Reports can be forwarded via SRS.

Also noticed are that Pandora has moved back down to 48 mb. He told me that he is thinking of changing his name to Radio No-Responce.



OFFSHORE 98 THE STATION AND BEHIND

OFFSHORE RADIO LINKS (ORL) asked Frank from OFFSHORE 98 to answer some questions about the venture.

Offshore Radio Links (ORL): How did the idea come up to start with "Offshore 98" the first "real" European offshore radio station of the nineties since Radio Caroline had to close down in 1990?

Frank: The idea was born in 1995. At first we thought of a small ship with a balloon antenna. We thought if we didn't make it this time we could not see a real offshore radio in the North Sea anymore. We had gained much experience on landbased stations before (Radio Valentine, Radio Benelux, Radio Telstar). But as the top a real offshore radio station was missing, "OFFSHORE 98" can be seen as a "trophy" for all that work.

ORL: Most of the programmes and jingles were produced last year, weren't they - thus the name "Offshore 98" instead of "Offshore 99"?

Frank: Most of the preproduced programmes and the biggest part of the jingles were produced just before Easter 1999. A small part of the programmes

and jingles originated from the "1998 production". In this way we could even improve the quality of the programmes. The jingle package consists of 72 professional, partly sung jingles.

ORL: What kind of ship did you use? What about the size, its capabilities and the captain? Was there a mast to fit the antenna?

Frank: We chartered a motor ship being 34 metres long, 7 metres wide and 3 metres deep. The "MV Morning Star" was our fake name for it. The real name and its home harbour are kept secretly. By the way the Dutch MV Morgenster isn't existing any longer and was not the ship we used. The vessel had three masts (a tall one and two smaller ones) for shortwave, mediumwave and longwave.

ORL: When and from which harbour did you leave? Did you stay on one certain place or were you sailing for most of the time? Where did you drop anchor?

Frank: We started on Good Friday morning when we left a bigger German harbour. So that was not Scheveningen in the Netherlands, as A.J.Beiren had reported maybe to mislead the authorities. We didn't drop anchor at any time, but we were moving all the time. The place where the transmissions took place was west of the isle of Helgoland.

ORL: Did you install the transmitters and the antennas on high seas? What kind of antenna system did you use?

Frank: Everything was installed in the international waters outside the 12-mile-limit.

For longwave we installed a t-antenna, for mediumwave a long wire and for shortwave a dipole antenna.

ORL: What kind of transmitters did you use? What about frequencies and their capacity?

Frank: The longwave transmitter (279 kHz as a commercial one used in the former GDR for air traffic. It had a capacity of 100 Watts. The mediumwave transmitter (1566 kHz) was a home built one from a Dutch landbased pirate and was capable to transmit 200 Watts. The short wave transmitter (6210 kHz) was also a self-built one delivered by Radio Benelux with a capacity of 100 Watts. Naturally the antennas were too close together so there was some interference. Therefore a large part of the capacity was swallowed, and we ended up just having a fraction of the possible efficiency.

ORL: When did you start transmitting and when

were the programmes finished?

Frank: We started on Good Friday April 2nd 1999 from 6 to 8 p.m. EST With test transmissions. We officially opened on Saturday morning at six o'clock EST and switched the transmitters on one by one. We closed down on Easter Monday April 5th 1999 at one o'clock a.m. EST having broadcast for almost 50 hours.

ORL: How many people were on board the ship? Did the ship have a crew on board?

Frank: We were 13 participants, and the crew consisted of four men. Some technicians we had approached for helping us with the transmitters cancelled their co-operation short before the actual start of the project on Easter. So the shortwave people of Radio Benelux took care of the shortwave and mediumwave transmitter. Helmut concentrated on the longwave and partly the mediumwave transmitter.

QRL: Was there a small studio on board for live broadcasts? If yes, what equipment did you use?

Frank: In the mess room we installed a studio consisting of the relatively simple equipment used by Radio Telstar. We actually had a lot of live broadcasts, more than planned. The main reason was that 12 hours of Dutch programmes had been pre-produced but were sadly lost after being posted. But there were pre-produced English and German programmes as well (12 hours each). There were continuous live messages in different languages all throughout the programmes.

ORL: Who were the DJ's?

Frank: There were Ron Visser, Tommy Bollmann, Stephan, Paul Graham, Ton Vogt, Bart de Graaf, Chad Reuther, Rob Devil and some others. All participants on board were included with reading news and weather forecasts and telling the listeners about the actual happenings on board the vessel.

ORL: What about the weather?

Frank: We experienced almost all kind of weather: We had lots of sun but also some fog and even quite rough sea.

ORL: What didn't work out as planned?

Frank: The experiment using three different antennas and transmitters (using a longwave transmitter was another European off-shore radio first) didn't produce that satisfying results we had expected. So the capacity could not be used optimally. Besides

that both the preparations and the realisation of the project went on without problems.

ORL: What was the mood on board? Were you nervous especially because of critical warnings by offshore expert Herbert Visser who predicted the immediate intervention of the authorities? Did you get to sleep?

Frank: The mood on board was really good all the time. We had the best off-shore radio feeling without being seasick. The tension was quite low but rose once when we were obviously followed by another ship and our captain accelerated our speed to full capacity. It soon proved to be an harmless vessel with no intentions to intervene. From that moment on, even the maritime crew had fun with the project. We didn't sleep too much during these days and were a bit tired because of all the strain. But we got a huge kick out of this adventure.

ORL: You used an address in Offenburg, (Germany). How was the response? How many reception reports came in from which countries?

Frank: The Offenburg post office box got almost 100 reception reports from nearly all European countries: Denmark, Sweden, all parts of Germany, Finland, England, Scotland, Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Austria...

ORL: Was there any media reaction on Offshore 98 in terms of radio, newspapers etc.?

Frank: We didn't put enough effort into public affairs. That was because there wasn't a 100% certain weather forecast and we didn't want to wake up any "sleeping dogs". We just wanted to realise the project. There were few reports in Radio Netherland's Media NetWork and the local press in Offenburg. The RADIO NEWS will of course have a feature, and maybe there will be an article in the German RADIO HOEREN & SCANNEN.

ORL: To conclude: Is there any overall criticism on the project? Are there plans of going ahead with the project? Was it worth all the effort you put in it?

Frank: We just want others to follow our example and to improve the methods of realising such a weekend-only offshore radio station. It was absolutely worth the effort, but of course not financially. It was lots of fun and we gained much experience and knowledge.

ORL: Was there any sponsor? Are there still bills to be paid?

Frank: It was a non-profit venture, and we had no

sponsor. There are no debts left. Unfortunately we aren't able to offer tapes of the broadcasts to be purchased. But if you're searching for even more in-depth information on Offshore 98 with even more pictures, why not write to the following address for a sample copy of the German RADIO NEWS. The next issue which will be out in a few weeks time and costs 10 German Marks including postage and package. It will become a double issue. Write to: Radio News, at P.O. Box 2209 !

OFFSHORE 98, P.O.BOX 2209, D- 77612
OFFENBURG, GERMANY

Find more about this venture on the internet: <http://wru.offshore-radio.de/98Offshore>

SPECIAL OFFER:

- THE OFFSHORE-98 T-SHIRT ONLY 15 EURO
- THE 1-HOUR AUDIO CASSETTE (MIX) ONLY 8 EURO
- THE VHS-VIDEOTAPE UPON REQUEST (send a cheque to our address)

Final words

This period has been quite bad when looking on my own listening on Saturdays and Sundays. Can't blame the conditions for everything, but some - yeah. Anyway, keep rolling!

Contributions

What about future issues of Pirate Reflections?

Well, I will try to keep up something that looks like bi-monthly, can't promise anything, as you know.

But if you want to write anything for us, please send us your manuscript. We take almost anything. We have no limitations in pages, as it will never be printed on paper at my location, what You do, that's upto you.

I accept most formats and if you attach images, use 72 dpi, that's enough for the screen-view and does not make to heavy loading into the document.

This second issue is only one page, as I don't have too much material. Articles, debates or comments are welcome.

See you / Jonny @ SRS

Have a nice summer!

Pirate Reflections

Issue 1 2000
e-mail: pr@srs.pp.se

Editorial

Welcome to issue 1 in the "new" millenium of the PR e-zine!

There have not been that much time over to keep up a gentle publishing schedule, but I will let you know when I close down for good!

I wish you a nice reading!

Jonny @ SRS

Band-Reflections

December

Starting allready in December, we heard the old Finnish station Radio Milliwatt active on Christmas Day. The major problem for most of the Finnish stations today seems to get enough power to reach outside Scandinavia. Northern Music Radio has the same problem, only heard in a very shaped area.

More Christmas-stuff, St Claus Overdrive - do we really need this? First of all, it's not Herbie fooling around, it is another station. Okey, we might need to be cherried up a bit on Christmas, but the concept? Santa getting a B.J. from Jenny McCarthy! Reminds me of the Dutch station that broadcasted a sex-show live during Christmas a few years back!

Radio Orang Utan will return in the near future . How many times have we heard this? No comments.

Radio East Side started up as a project that should be relayed via IRRS, but soon R.E.S. became the new name of Radio Blue Star.

And finally around New Years Eve, we came across another project from Dr Tim; Radio Millenium 2000. A question to you all, is QSL-collecting the main part in our hobby? If so, one station is enough on the bands, it could just change name and QSL-card every week. For me, a new name is not equal to a new station. I would have found it more proper to just call it Radio Dr Tim with Millenium 2000 Show.

January

Well, not too many days had to go before the first "problem" occurred. The name of the problem was Radio Galaxy. Were they to come back or not. Well, first it sounded like Galaxy, but when their original members contacts SRS, they let us know that they have nothing to do with it! There is one thing I know for sure, German stations have problems finding their own style. Most spoofs and equal are coming from...Germany. Put some energy to your own px instead of picking on others, those with bad px'es will die automatically without your help! And in the case of Radio Galaxy, I will just call it very bad taste! I hope we will be safe from this manner in the future.

The good news, a lot of European stations were heard with quite good signals over in the states.

February

Passion in co-operation with PFBS were active with a strong and clear signal. Some technical problems but most solved during the day. The big surprise for the staff were that they had forgotten to pay the fee for their postbox, so no drop available when all letters were coming in. Later they joined SRS.



EMR had their last show aired. It was better in the old days", the main-op tells us. Well, the response today v.s. yesterday has been so discussed so I do not know if I want to do it again. Just keep in touch with your fellow pirates! They need You!

That's also why Pandora isn't as active as before, but this fellow has to improve the audio - a lot!

Pandora audio mixed with the voice of John Sandy at WRCR - a super happening! I've once heard John on FM (were he is also active) and his dark voice are much better there on FM!



In February, the first warnings about the future return of Radio Stella also reached us.

By the end of February, a new Galaxy-problem occurred, this time under the name Nova.

Was it Irish Radio Nova? Dutch Radio Nova? or just someone fooling around? Well, it seems more likely that the third alternative gets most priority this time. How difficult is it to announce "this is a testtransmission from radio xx" every half hour or so?

March

Torenvalk and TonAir together on Internet! What a surprize.

Radio Enterhaken was the "new" station this month. Strange programs in German and with promises to be back. Played a lot of Stefan Raab (you know the guy who sang *Wadde hadde dudde da* during the E.Song Contest).

Some kind of a "fight" between Radio Nova and RFL were active in the press. If it took place for real, I actually don't know. RFL denied and Radio Nova accused. Blah blah blah.....

Level 48 were active and with proper signals when the right transmitter was active, no signs of any Level 24 or Level 12 etc this time.

The Dutch PTT (RDR) came up with a new "law" that makes it more difficult for the pirates. No actual raid seems to be needed to fine the operator. Just the pointing needed for a proper address to where the bill are to be sent. Shame on RDR for this dirty trick, go back to your cars and do some real work!

April

The Italian religious station Radio Speranza were back on shortwave. - Why?

Two Scandinavian stations were active during the Eastern period. Most interesting were Power 48 that brought a good and steady signal across Europe. If this was a new station or another "on-time-project" with another famous Scandinavian station involved, I don't know. I have not heard if there have been any paper-QSL's, but digital ditos have been available via pwr48@hotmail.com.

And that Starshine popped up with his yearly broadcast was not actually any news. From being one of the most active station from Scandinavia down to this.....Compared with the others, he's still very active!



Radio Blue Star visited Scandinavia and used a handful of different names for programs and QSO.

May

Jolly Roger Radio has a new transmitter, and that is good. His frequency of 6235 is also occupied with strong utility signals, and that is less good. As the utility stations most hardly will change their frequencies, JRRI should do it if he wants to have a proper reception across Europe.

Benelux has been very active and now celebrated 10 years as active station. Also have the 41 mb been stable enough for reception.

Most significant for this period has been the splatter from some station transmitting in real wide AM. I don't know if it's because of pure stupidity or some kind of complex for not being heard.

I hope it becomes better for the best of all involved.

And finally

That ends the first issue this year, hopefully will there be some more, if you want! Any contribution are mostly welcome. When I have enough for another issue, it will be issued - easy.

I wish you all a nice summer, and if you are to be visiting Sweden, let me know!



73's

Jonny @ SRS

Pirate Reflections

Issue 2 2000

e-mail: pirate.reflections@srs.pp.se

Editorial

Welcome to issue 2, this expending issue of the PR e-zine! We have a great magazine ahead, and do not hesitate to contact us in any matter.

Jonny @ SRS

Band-Reflections

June

At the beginning of this month, something strange appeared:

Roy Masters Foundation of Human Understanding. Are there not enough religious stations on the band? Do pirates have to relay them as well?

It is just a question from my side, nothing else.

And this was not enough! Radio Stella, that can be heard on almost any band (I believe that it is just Voice of Russia, VOA and BBC that has more bands occupied at the moment) was also relayed by this fellow. And yes, WMR too. I am very aware of that pirate radio is not commercial radio (thanks God) but hi-jacking programmes like this?

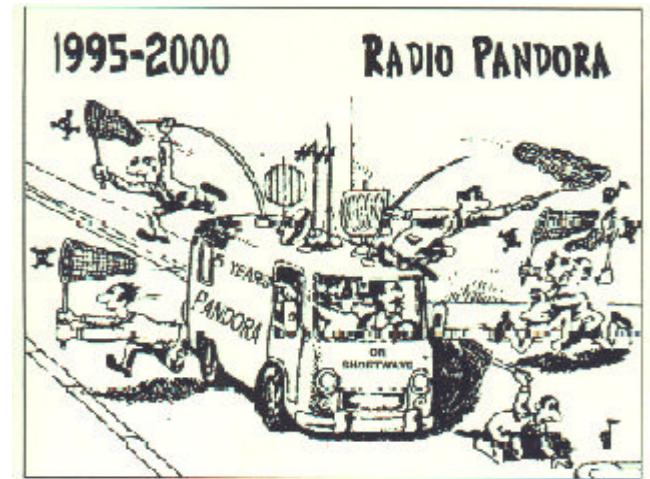
The Scandinavian station "Teststation No.1" was heard and also identified as Power 48!

I think I mentioned something about this in the previous issue of PR, so I will not go into details. But only serve with an e-mail address is quite weak. Still folks around not having access to the internerd. And that is why we can write dirty things about Radio Argus without having any replies from them. They do have an e-mail, but in the last issue of their Argusnews they show off by saying that they never collect the mail. No, I shall not jump on the fellows at the Argus, they are probably nice while sleeping.

The laughing station, Radio Lisa, also appeared. If they have been on live at 22.00 UTC I would have understood everything, but early Sunday morning? Grab the microphone Lisa and do not run around laughing in the studio! That will improve a lot.

The continued Finnish Free Radio story ended with the Scandinavian Weekend Radio, or?

The Finnish pirates was normally heard, so far, I have only seen bulletins about that they should be on air, not that they have been actually heard. So, go back to the old days and pump up the volume! Kiitos.



Perhaps you remember the storm of the return of Radio Galaxy? Well, here we go again, or? Changing the name to Galaxy 2000 is a new variant. I am just waiting for R.Caroline 2000, R.Mi Amigo 2000, R. Casablanca 2000 etc etc. I love the rich fantasy.

On Tuesday June 27th at 05.08 local time, Joop ter Zee (FRS-H) died in the age of 40 years. Nothing more to add, a nice fellow pirate has left us.

July

After all testing on 15 MHz by Alfa Lima, DRS and Sunflower, a new (?) appearance from UK, Radio Sparks. At once all DX-ers write to Switzerland. I wonder how many reports he got? And once again, one name is not enough or was it a flash back?

And old Radio Diamond from Germany was back on 41 mb, or was it Radio Diamond 2000 ??

Another perfect publication close, it is the Finnish Bandscan published by Patrik Willfoer.

Again, the MW-pirates are out of regular loglists.

But at the other hand, a well known DX-er in the UK wanted to have a reason to listen to those pirates up there on 1.6 MHz, so...I do not know.

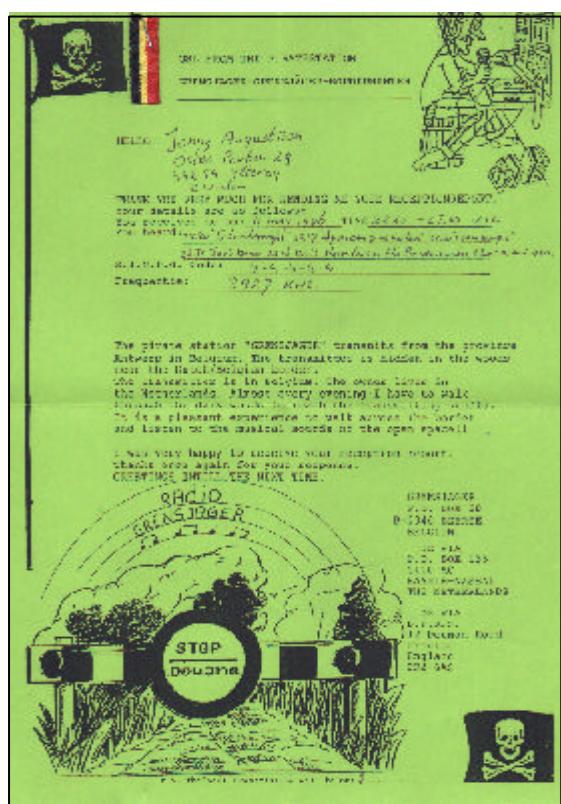
And once again, the IRRS plant tried to get some extra power from above. I do think that they could need lightning conductor.

Ozone, and many pirates like him, are a bit pissed off because of the low response from the listeners. Are we really that bad? Could be so.

August

Radio Borderhunter was hunting more than borders by the start of this month, bandwidth!

QRM up to +/- 30 kHz was noted. Too many poor transmitter's out there.



Also notable are all those magnetic storms that killed short wave several times.

And we received the information that The Farmers were back again. I guess that everyone are jumping up and down, shouting....If you were not, the Dutch PTT probably were....more money coming in.

Radio Pandora celebrated 5 years and will continue doing so until all the special prepared QSL-cards has been sent out.

Torenvalk has also been heard again. It seems like he has come over the new Dutch radio-law.

Short-wave pirates and their frequency's

Lot of people is listening to the short wave and also a lot of them are listening in to short-wave pirates. They even may send in a reception report now and than what is high valued by (normal) pirate station operators.

Still a lot of people don't know all the frequency's where the pirates are active.

There are even stations that are almost testing anywhere were it is not to busy. That is also very dangerous, for example Alfa Lima International was raided once because he was transmitting a few times on a frequency (15070khz) used by a whether fax of the Royal Air Force of England. Also heard the rumour that the well-known Farmers were also once raided because they interfered to much with some maritime traffic on the short-wave band. So operators have to be very careful before using a frequency.

Now are there a few frequency area's witch is well known that they are used by pirates. Just take a look at the 6200/6306 and 3900 kHz area.

That are the places you look for stations first, but it is known that also other freq's are and were used by pirates. Radio Free London was already quite a while active on 15060 and 15070 (now a lot used by Alfa Lima) also SWRS did his part of using all kinds of frequency's They started as far as my knowledge is with transmitting on 11475 and 21890 kHz that area those area's with here also used later again by..Alfa Lima and these are not the only frequencies used by pirates, still we have the 41 mb. Between 7100 and 7500khz you also find out that quit a lot of regular station are transmitting there and we did see bluestar on al kinds of frequency's, heard him a few times on 6920 kHz aiming for USA audience and pacific.

In the USA they use mostly other frequencies. 6955 and 13910 kHz is the main frequencies and lots of listeners are catching pirate signals from the other side of the big Atlantic.

They are working a lot on ssb (usb) with old modified ham transceivers.

Hope you all have some great reception and transmitting in the upcoming months.

We going into the winter again so reception will be better in the near future again.

Greetings from the operator of A.L.I

Reader's Reflections

In issue 1 2000 I mentioned something like:

"A question to you all, is QSL-collecting the main part in our hobby? If so, one station is enough on the bands, it could just change name and QSL-card every week."

There were actually some response to that! Here we go:

Over the renewed trips of the SRS maker in its increased Free Radio imagination world would not like to omit me I here further - this discussion is would be too cheap me. Whoever can list received FR stations at a hand, that should be gladly now and then to hear another station-name once - if he/ it this can receive.

Nobody is forced to hear a station or cooks to write up. And if somebody positions his/its own standards to the evaluation of FR stations, this "sorts" like with the "regular" Dxing, then that is his/its matter. Theorizes and criticizes a matter is - it better does the other side is!!!

That it doesn't walk me around "thousands" listener-mail surely and that new station-names "are therefore" invented "again and again" - that shows me the Swede actually like little knows. "Radio Millennium" was an unique project, Radio Polka-Wave will drive one single time. But I think that one can alert with such remarks also to itself. Maybe thinks I about the whole matter once again and "establishes" a new station "SRS - SERIOUS RADIO SYSTHEM", "has missed me a ITU country code" and unloads Mr.SRS once to the takes part one. Because only from the practice out learns his/its job one.

Dr Tim

Editors response:

I have read this letter probably a hundred times, and it does not make much sense to me. But it seems clear to me that:

- 1. The Doctor is pissed off.*
- 2. His German to English translation programme is not the very best one.*
- 3. One station - one name is still the way I like it.*

Next letter is more friendly, perhaps also the first one was, I am not sure....

Why not upset our QSL lobby even further and start a little survey? Ask some stations if they are really satisfied with the feedback they receive by snailmail, how much time they spend on producing QSL cards and materials etc. and if they think the effort spent is worth what they get back. That might make some guys think if some traditions need to be thrown overboard.

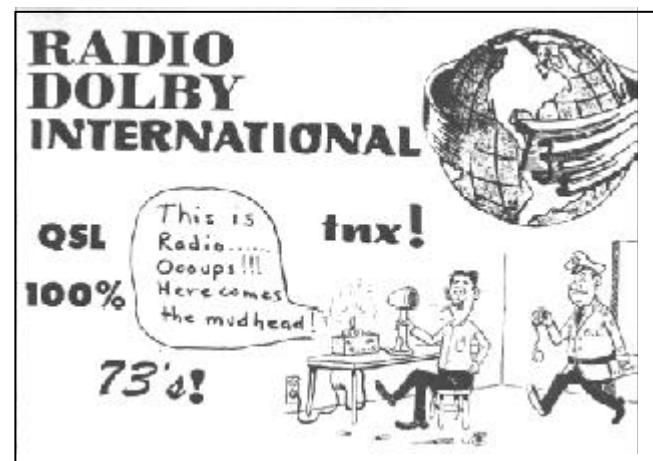
Or do it the other way round and produce a QSL for the next Pirate Reflections. I mean all the readers could tell you how well they received the file (how long the download took, if the file was damaged or not, how many kB's it needs, what type of computer they use etc.). Let's see how many will add some comments on the content!

As a matter of fact I like the idea of having a more or less regular overview of what was on the bands. Even if there are no fresh news in it, the items gain value with time passing by because you focus on the important issues, the things to remember.

Bjoern

Editors response:

We allready know from a debate in SRSnews that the response/feedback from the listeners are more or less a one-time project, so I do not think that we have to do a survey on that matter. But, why not, all operators out there, tell us what you think! And having a QSL for receiving PR - I love that! Send your reports to PR and we will verify all correct reports with a e-QSL. Thanks also for your comments Bjoern.



Merchweiler 2000 by Dr.Tim

This year would be a special DX-camp, nobody thought of it. The year 2000 gives a hint to this assumption. So we travelled on our well known way to the 27th DX-camp of the SWLCS in Merchweiler. The name "Merchweiler" delighted us - because we hope to meet some colleagues, listeners and friends.

On Thursday the first Merchweiler-addicted arrived. It were only a few like Radio Little Star, Radio Perfekt, and Dr Tim. After a travel of 2,5 hours and 250 kilometres we arrived at europe's DX-centre. It was planned to take Atelier Radio with us. Why that did not happen, we can not assume. The OP called to drive with us. This could be managed first on Thursday. It was not clear, whether other colleagues, who asked earlier, drive with us. I wrote this to Atelier Radio per email. He was requested to call shortly. But no reaction so we travelled on our own.

It was not difficult to find the camp area for newcomer, as there were some hints to find the camp on the route from the motorway access route. And we know the way asleep. At 1530Utc we arrived at the Dorfstreet and were greeted with a big hello.

The whole camping area was half of the area of last year, the tent area was on the other side of the street. We set up our tent. WE got help from the owner of the ground to set up our tent.

Then we talked with the colleagues. As there were only a few pirates active from Friday 2100 Utc we had lengthy talks till saturday morning 0100 Utc.

After some hours of sleep the first woke up at 0600 Utc and had a cup of coffee. Our Ilse and daughter had nothing forgotten for breakfast and for 5,00 DM you were able to eat as much as you can.

More and more well known friends arrived at the camp area the whole Saturday. We missed nothing on the bands as the whole saturday nothing was heard on 48m. Besides the IRRS-programme4s nothing was heard. The late afternoon and evening conditions became better. Peter Hell and team/family supplied us best with food.

Radio Taipeh was present with the head of the german department. The beautiful woman had an inter-

resting report and dia show about Radio Taipeh.

The discussion with 70 participants was arranged afterwards. At the last meeting there were 20 participants at the rooms of DW . This expresses the well known reputation of Merchweiler. Besides Radio Taipeh Radio Slovakia was present. : Sofia Miklovic of the german department talked with the guests of the camp.

The free radio night lasted till sunday morning 0100 Utc. This means free radio people ever survive and give up if they are exhausted. Some pirate stations could be heard during saturday evening. Some discussions took place about the second highest theme of the world - Free Radio and pirates.

At saturday afternoon Walter Dietz, the mayor of Merchweiler, visited the camp.

We slept in tents on the other side of the route. The owner of the ground let us use their toilets and sold some cakes.

At sunday morning 0600 Utc the first people sat in front of their receivers.

The sunday was all in all pirate radio. We had a good breakfast but activity and signals on sunday morning were only fair.

We had special antennas but computers and other technical things disturbed signals. Never mind some stations were logged. After we took some pieces of the afternoon lottery the tents were dismantled and we drove away on midday. RADIO PERRFEKT, RADIO LITTLE STAR and I left the camp at 1300 Utc after we said good bye to the rest of the team.

Here are the participants of Merchweiler 2000:

STAR CLUB RADIO, RADIO ILLUSION, RADIO LITTLE STAR, RADIO EAST SIDE, RADIO BERMUDA DREIECK, RADIO PERFEKT, RADIO SOMMER 97, RADIO LIKEDEELER, RADIO BOBBY, RADIO DR.TIM, RADIO LISA, PHANTASIE RADIO NETWORK, RADIO METROPOLIS, LOVEPARADE RADIO, VOICE OF GERMANY, RADIO COMMUNICATION, RADIO POLKAWELLE, RADIO WONDERFUL, RADIO ROYAL, RADIO MILLENNIUM 2000, RADIO NORDSEE INTERNATIONAL/RBI, INTERNATIONAL MUSIC RADIO/IMR, RADIO NO NAME, FRG, RADIO GALACTICA, RADIO BREKDOWN, RADIO MATTERHORN, CLINIC

RADIO, RADIO 510, RECORD RADIO, RADIO SPARKS, DIGITAL FM 103,5, RADIO TAIPEH (DEUT.DIENST), RADIO SLOWAKEI INT.(DEUT.DIENST).

Other prominent people were AXEL RÖSE (editor of free radio address list), KLAUS KÖHLER, JOSEF ZIMMERMANN, the WINTER FAMILY, KURT-J. PRZYSTUPA, WALRTER DIETZEL, CHRISTIAN BRÜLHARD from Switzerland (the man with the interesting car) STEFFEN WERNER with girl friend (always on board) PETER BOEK, PETER KRUSE vom EAWRC & BDXC, MICHAEL BETHKE, OM SIEGBERT, EBERHARD AHL/RMRC, THE MAYOR OF MERCHWEILER, WALTER DIETZ, JÜRGEN BAST/ADDX, MICHAEL SCHMITT/ADDX. Also in official mission CHRISTIANE SCHIEMANN from HR4.

If I forgot somebody it was not intentional.

Not to forget two things: A big thank you to Peter Hell, Ilse and his daughter for the top organization of the camp. And with this the hope that there will be another Merchweiler-camp. If there will be a Merchweiler 2001 is not clear.

Till the next year and welcome to Merchweiler 2001.

Radio Dr Tim

And finally

Well, this is not the last to read in this second issue, but there were no else to write it.

Thanks for all contributions this time, as you can see, Pirate Reflections can turn out to be something. A little bit of news here, an article there, perhaps a photo there etc etc. It becomes what we do out of it. And if you want, more issues will be coming! We have been promised some great articles for the next issue, so I hope I'll get them in time. Any contribution are mostly welcome. When I have enough for another issue, it will be issued - easy. And if that's not good enough, let's say....end of October?

I wish you all a nice fall/autumn!

**73's
Jonny @ SRS**

The E-Logger

A LISTENERS TELEPHONE CALL A.D. 2000

"Hi, I noticed you've been active this morning on the 48"

"Yes, my friend that's true I was on 6295 this morning for a couple of hours, did you like my programme ?"

"Well, I didn't actually hear you myself, but someone has e-mailed me a loglist and I read you've been on the air"

WHAT'S THE POINT HERE?

I have noticed a change in interest by some, instead of spending time behind the receiver on sundaymornings or saturdayevenings people are online and wait for the loglists to come in in order to keep informed about what's happening on the free radio bands.

I very much appreciate the good and hard work done by guys like Dr.Tim, the SRS, Hajo, Achim and all the others that keep monitoring the bands and keep publishing loglists, this is a very important source for free radio nerds. Some guys, those who are not REALLY interested in the essence of the programmes that you may hear but are merely interested in WHO has been on the air, these lists are enough info, they needn't switch on their receiver, all they need to do is to open their mailbox.

WHAT SHOULD CHANGE?

Frankly spoken nothing, we must accept the fact that in this modern world it is no longer necessary to obtain an expensive receiver to know what's going on in the free radio world, so it adds a new sort of free radio person to the already existing listeners and broadcasters ; the e-mailreader or to speak a bit more in radio terms should we referr to him a as an e-logger ?

Hans from R.Torenvalk
(broadcaster, listener and sometimes just e-logger)



Torenvalk and Tonair in action 1996 in Merchweiler

Pirate Reflections

Issue 1 2001

e-mail: pirate.reflections@srs.pp.se

Editorial

Welcome to issue 8 of the PR e-zine!

Yeah, this is the eight issue of an e-zine that some loves and most others hates. The only thing that really bothers me is the fact that I can not get time and material to produce a bimonthly magazine. Well, I could probably catch up some time to spend, but as I do not come up with my own stories what's going on out there (as some thinks), it is rather dry in the in-box. There has not been any issue since August, take or give some months, last year, there should be something to write about, or?

Well, instead of nagging and crying over bad conditions, strange peoples and a poor internet-discussion, I just say, enjoy this issue - it will not be the last!

Jonny @ SRS

Band-Reflections

September 2000

Radio Free London was active again upon 5805 kHz and tried to achieve a "look-a-like commercial station" attitude. Does SW-stations like RFL and Laser Hot Hits have many listeners? I doubt it. Only new DX-ers to the pirate bands are listening, so some kind help might be done.

Jolly Roger Radio moved at this time to 6240 or 39 kHz, and all of a sudden, he was heard across Europe. Never look down on utility stations, they cause more trubbel than you can imagine. Cos, if you are too weak, the utility station will be on top of you - and if you are too strong - the PTT will be on top of you. Simple as ABC...

September was cursed with a lot of aurora bringing silence to the bands. No rare DX-signals, only local stations.

Wuppertal managed to send out all waiting letters. No further comments to that.

Radio Exotica was a new tape-station that wanted some PR this month. The style of music should be as any other station out there. No, perhaps not, no polkas was involved.

But the letter end with "I am a woman". Could not the style of music be enough? Hey - I am a man - do you listen to this? Thought so...

IRRS was hit again by a lightning. I think someone up above wants to silence this station!

Radio News from FRC Germany has released their final Millenium Edition.

Radio News has been published for 29 years and will now close down.

October 2000

FRS-Holland was on air with a special Joop ter zee program.

After all those strange relays this spring, a new strange apperance occured. The czech station Radio Impuls was relayed on 6285 kHz and a few other. What, who and why?

MIKE RADIO appear on the bands. An old station with a new name, and old station returning or just a new station with an old name?

Radio Delmare and Sunflower was testing new equipment on high frequencies. Nice to see that Delmare are still active.

Radio TITANIC INT, the german one, was back with their yearly broadcast. The guys behind the station are today too old to fool around in the woods and let some powerhouses to the job with the relay.

LIVE WIRE Radio were very active on 48 mb night-time. What have happened to this pirate?

Once heard almost every weekend on 76 mb, today it is almost only Korak left up there.

LEVEL 48 was active again. From being a huge co-operation with stations available in Germany, Holland, England, Denmark and Sweden, only CWR and Benelux remains, or?



November 2000

Radio Waves International has a double birthday - 17 years on the air and 10 years of their "Country Mx show" I was not aware of that country was that populare, but our two cowboys - Radio Waves and Radio Perfect seems to continue playing the banjo. Keep country..

Andrew Yoder from the states informed that he was collecting information for his new book "Pirate Radio Stations". This time he wants include a bit more information about the european pirates. Well, as the acivity in the states are pretty low - he might need all the help he can get to put something together that looks like a book.

The operator of Planet Radio dies due to heart problems. No further comments.

A new Dutch station calling themselves for Enterprise radio has appeared on 6275 kHz with low power. For a dutch station, low power means at least 500 watts, or?

A new German station called Linda Radio was active this month on 26005 kHz USB +/- 10 kHz. This sound like a cb operator has been fooling around again - or?

Wrekin Radio was back on the air after being quit for some time!

December 2000

The Raalte address closed down at the new year. Most stations were transfered to the Neede address.

Radio East Coast Holland and the Voice of the Netherlands was active again this New Years Eve on both 48 and 41 mb with 150 / 800 Watts.

RADIO TOWER from the Netherlands did their first short wave programme. And everyone that sticks to the short wave knows that this was the birth of a new power-house.

The "CLCG International" show hosted by Steve Young was supposed to be the final one, after 17 years. Probably this will mean the end to RADIO CLCG as well.

All good things must have an end.

Pandora was celebrating, and so also R.Titanic Int'l. Pandora on one frequency - Radio Titanic tried to beat the BBC World Service. If he managed to beat them? Well....

A new station was heard testing from Ireland on 7.375 low signal but clear ID's heard as Radio Tara Int. and using the Wuppertral address. They claimed to have around 15 W, through a di-pole antenna.

Transatlantic Radio had no money for fire-crackers this New Year, so he put the transmitter on fire. TAR - the station with the hottest sound!

Radio Alfa Lima increased the activity up on 21890 kHz, due to the solar values. Seen from today, it was a good strike. Many fine receptions throughout the world.

ECR/VoTN had some real luck! They were heard in Sydney, Australia! And down there they need all culture they can get, hi.

And Radio Geronimo from the UK was still looking for a DJ.

January 2001

JRRI changed to 6235 kHz, as there were too many stations using 6240. What probably pissed off the op even more were that those other stations were active when JRRI had been there for a while. Talking about not being heard in the crowd. JRRI running 60 Watts.

The german oldie station, RADIO BENELUX, became the promotion station. Bands and groups that wanted airtime could send tapes or CD-s to Benelux. A good idea! There are any bands looking for airtime!

Derek Taylor, DPRS, retired and we were told that his daughter continued the DPRS-service.

The list with stations that's been out telling who's could be sent via DPRS (I think it costed two dollars, or am I wrong) was not needed, as all Dutch Medium Wave pirates can be contacted through DPRS.

A new mysterious station was heard and identificated as Radio ROWBOX.

Radio COCHIGUAZ celebrated its 4th birthday. Time past quickly, does it not?

It is just like yesterday that this station was mentioned for the first time.

A rumour popped up that op Fossy of RADIO POP-CORN would return. No sound of corn so far.

And Radio Geronimo from the UK was still looking for a DJ.

February

When the transmitter was burned down to ashes, the Transatlantic OP felt restless.

No transmitter and lots of music that wanted to be played - what to do?

Internet-relays! Don't know if interruptions in the feed are better than fading, but the short waves gives a better feeling. Another station trying the internet as source was Starshine Radio. As both has been heard on short wave again, we assume that the internet was a poor way to reach listeners.

The London pirate Radio Free London is threatening to close down after internal squabbles, RFL has existed on and off since 1968 under different groups. RFL has been a regular feature on London's radio dial on 819 and 5805kHz for many years. The only sad thing here are that the QSL-hunters, who's already has got their QSL's, don't care much.

RADIO NORTHSEA WORLD SERVICE, that officially closed down October 30th, 2000 was testing a lot on 6206 kHz.

RADIO PIRANA INTERNATIONAL had his first thoughts about coming back on air.

Radio Nova International (Terry Philips) was testing on 9290 kHz. As you all remember, and knows what came.



BBMS/Ozone and Benelux decided to share 7480. Better being friends than being on top or under.

Laser Hot Hits changed the 41m-band frequency from 7455 to 7460 kHz

Radio Fantastico was a station that should do some tests on the higher bands. Nothing heard, as in many cases.

TOWER Radio was heard with 1000 Watts. The OP announced that he soon would fire up to 5000 Watts. Now we are talking! There should not be any stations besides me?

Radio Geronimo is still looking for a DJ.

March

Tony Stevens of Radio Mi Amigo is also looking for DJ's! What in earth is going on here?

The lands were there are more DJ's than regular people are looking outside the borders to find DJ's! Perhaps he just needs someone to hide his 500 Watts transmitter?

Offshore Echo's Magazine officially opened their home page at: www.offshoreechos.com

JRRI came back to 6240 kHz with 180 watts. Perhaps they are heard now by other ops having problems with their Rx equipment?

The droperator of 64 Brighton Rd have asked RADIO NOVA and RADIO XTC to find new maildrops. Why? Hmm...

A new station was Radio Free Limburg. Starting their struggle with a relay of a legal FM-station. A Dutch station without an own collection of polka?

TOWER Radio had Theo from the Dutch PTT sniffing around, and pulled the plug before Theo stopped by for coffee and crackers.

Aurora Radio, with 40 W into an inverted V-dipole, was a brand new appearance on the bands. Seems to be a Finnish or Swedish station! Good work.

Radio Geronimo is still looking for a DJ.

April

Radio Bremen raided, we were told. Nope - he was not. Reading old materials expose interesting ideas. Seems like Bremen himself sent the news to SRS and than complain in Argus News that they were published!

The operator of NMR tells for the hundred times that he still exist and are planning for new broadcasts in the near feature. As he always are asking for music requests and never comes on air, our guess are that he does not receive any requests and therefor he has nothing to play and stay off the air.

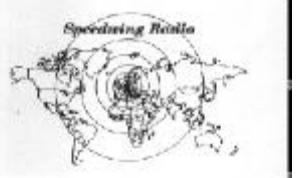
NMR - play Hotel California by the eagles eight times, that will give you approx. un hour.

Radio Piraña from the South-America are now actually working with is Tx!

Radio East Coast Holland does like all big stations does, change frequency during the summer period.

Radio Geronimo is still looking for a DJ.

Well, May is too close to be reflected, so I'll catch up with that later on. The biggest question after this review: Will Radio Geronimo find any DJ?



And finally

In some mysterious way, this note has been far away from the end the last issue.

Thanks for all contributions this time, as you can see, Pirate Reflections does not die, even if many want it to do. A little bit of news here, an article there, perhaps a photo there etc. It becomes what we do out of it. And even if you want or not, more issues will be coming! We were promised some great articles for this issue, but my hopes are gone. The person promising them has not sent as much as a little text. Maybe I'll get them for the next time. Any contribution is mostly welcome. When I have enough for another issue, it will be issued - easy. And if that's not good enough, let's say....end of summer?

I wish you all a nice summer!

73's
Jonny @ SRS

Letters coming in

Do you realise that the authorities responsible for raiding free radio stations read your loggings... It is a bad thing to give so much exact dates, times and evidence of station output, as it does definitely lead to these stations being raided. This has happened to four stations in the past 12 months, and the DTI in GB have said that a lot of their information came from websites such as yours. Only give vague dates and times please.

From all the Antares, Argus, Ram220 and Pipeline staff

Answer:

This has been up before. I am not aware of any station, except Radio UK, that has been raided during the last 12 months. This raid had nothing to do with SRSnews. The authorities gets their info via neighbours and others who complains about radio-sound everywhere in the house. As FM and MW are more sensitive in UK, I guess that those being raided where FM or MW-pirates. SRSnews does not include logs from FM or MW stations.

Here a message from Radio Tonair:

Our webpages is closed because the government is reading our pages and using the links on our site to close other radio stations in the Netherlands this information is coming from my netstat counter who i can read the information on it and this is the 4 times they visit our pages. (ministerie van verkeer en waterstaat in den den Haag) So I have decided to close this service to make it difficult for the gpo to find the stations on the net and also the information from our stations radio Tonair and Torenvalk. When the service is coming back i will send again a email to you.

Greetings from radio Tonair.

Editors reply:

Well, it is a pity that stations thinks that the authorities should pay any attention to what could be found on the internet. Yes, they are reading, yes, they know exactly were you are - unless your mobile or broadcasting from different places and yes, if they want to pick you up - they do it.



What is on?

Frequencies that have been used by pirates/out banders.

76 mb 3.880-3.999: Very popular even with low power not a great deal of activity only 4 to 5 stations of a weekend a useable nighttime frequency for Laser Hot Hits on 3.935.

85 metre communications band 3.450-3.495 kHz lsb: The Echo Charlie Band [CB type band] calling channel 3.475 lsb band is about 25 Khz either side of central frequency, occasional traffic UK, Germany and Holland, strong QRM at times, utility traffic, take care.

52 mb 5.700-5.875: The 52 metre band used when the 48 mb is either full of stations or not propagating very well second hobby pirate broadcasting band.

48 mb 6.200-6.400 (and beyond): The 48 metre band, this is the big one lots of stations on at the weekends and holidays etc from most of Europe and the UK plus a few from Scandinavia, with very little power good results can be achieved, the main Sunday morning hobby pirate broadcast band.

45 mb 6.600-6.700 kHz lsb: This is known as the Echo Charlie range of frequencies with the calling frequency of 6.670 lsb, good band for European traffic. Lots of stations from the UK, Germany, France, Netherlands, Belgium. Stations running with powers as low as 2 to 5 watts, also used by utility stations, never go to usb.

43 mb 6.940-6.955: This is the main US pirate band where most of the operation is in side band.

42 mb 7.395-7.555: Propagating sometimes better than the 48 mb but only 3 to 4 stations using this band, also a good DX band after sunset. The outsider to this frequency range is the IRRS to be found on 7.120 Italian Radio Relay Service, these put to air pirate tapes sent by hobby broadcasters, look for Laser Hot Hots on 7.455 and Radio Ozone/BBMS on 7.445.

32 mb 9.180-9.350 kHz: The 32 mb is something of a new band, but has been experimented with.

25 mb 11.400-11.550 kHz: The 25 mb mainly 11.404v has been used, good daylight DX band with the odd station as low as 10.355.

22 mb communications band: The 22 mb has also been experimented with, channels such as 12.105 12.130 12.160 up to 12.256v with any clear spots in between.

21 mb communications band 13.630-13.995 kHz AM/usb: The 13 mb has transcontinental traffic only occasionally used 13.630 - 13.960 is the main hobby pirate broadcasting range, there is also an International CB band where the calling frequency is 13.995 usb.

18 mb 15.550-15.835 (and lower): The 18 mb for pirates runs from 15.500 to 15.835 but channels below this have been used such as 15.025 and 15.070 MHz, sometimes excellent for daylight DX.

21 MHz these three frequencies have been used 21.450 21.565 and 21.890.

CB frequencies: 26.285 International calling frequency lower section usb. 26.740 International packet radio network lsb. 26.965 local packet radio network FM. 27.500 CW/RTTY frequency lsb. 27.555 International calling frequency high section usb. 27.700 slow scan TV.

60 cm UHF 482-487 MHz FM wide: In the Netherlands 60cm has been very popular, the calling frequency there being 485.500, low power and many miles, on a few milliwatts.

21 cm SHF 1300-1350 MHz: Old satellite receivers are useful for this range with 13305 MHz as the calling frequency, Fast Scan TV. Studio links.

Medium Wave low end 1.625-1.670: Most popular evening band with relatively low power 100 watts or less, I think the Dutch lead the World in pirating this section with their barrel organ music, but Germany-Belgium-Greece-Spain-Malta- and the former Yugoslavia have used this range, also try 1.350 1.475 and 1.593 kHz powers up to 3 kW have been used mainly via army/government surplus equipment.

I hope you have found this of interest, please feel free to correct any omissions. Feed back would be helpful.

Gary Stevens (BBMS/Ozone)

RTI - The End

RTI recently ended its Free Radio activities after almost 25 more or less successful years of serving the pirate listening public.

Yes it's true, no more Mark Brown to kick around anymore.

But never say never, time will tell what may happen in the future.

Our main reasons for calling it quits were a declining interest in the hobby, permanent equipment failures and the constant usage of the pirate frequencies by the likes of Dutch testing Powerhouses.

The other RADIO TITANIC, run by John from Holland nearly every weekend since early Y2K with - let's say "experimental" - transmissions made the situation unclarer than ever. Maybe even John received reports for our programmes and vice versa during the past years.



Right after he joined the short waves we asked John to change his station name to at least RADIO TITANIC HOLLAND but John refused this claiming he would be more often on the air like we do.

In fact, that's true AND WE CANNOT DENY THAT.

Anyway, we are a bit angry about his activities. We thought having been the real TITANIC station who ran Free Radio under the flag of the fateful luxury liner from 1912 on the short-waves for about 25 years from 1975 'til Y2K.

But, we don't like to conflict with other operators like John. No doubt this coincidental name put a bad light on the good name RADIO TITANIC in the scene. A really disappointing fact.

And, of course, lack of time besides the other commitments like family and business felt us to close down for good now.



At last, here are a few facts and figures regarding our station:

Transmitters on SW: BC 1306, STANDARD ELEKTRIK LORENZ FD and Drake TR4-C and of course several selfmade rigs from 10-100 watts

Aerials on SW: mostly half-wave dipoles, long wires, Inverted V and FD3 BC.

Broadcasts: more than 250 occasions so far from 1975 to 2000.

Relays on SW: we ourselves relayed the following stations so far:

RADIO VALENTINE, WREC, THE FOX, RADIO LOLLIPOP, XEROX, NAPRS, RADIO ENTERHAKEN, RADIO MIRAGE

So far many stations relayed us on SW:
RADIO PARTISAN, DELTA RADIO, RADIO FREEDOM (=KIWI RADIO), SUNRISE RADIO, RADIO HOTEL AMIGO, PFBS, RADIO DELMARE, IRRS, RADIO WAVES INT., RADIO EASTSIDE, RADIO NOVA INT., JOLLY ROGER RADIO, BIRS, NIRS, WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO, RADIO COCHIGUAZ, WREC, NAPRS, RADIO MIRAGE, RADIO ZODIAC, RADIO APOLLO and some unknown ones that run RTI shows by chance.

QSLs: more than 1500 have been sent our to the listeners

FFR

PS: The SRS-Ytterby maildrop is still valid for the time being for your comments etc. to our station. E-mail is still TITANICRTI@aol.com